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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

19 September 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military SituationSummary

UN forces, spearheaded by the US 1st Marine Division, which is meeting increased resistance from two regiments of the North Korean 18th Division west of the Han River, are continuing to advance past Kimpo airfield and along the main highway from Inchon to Seoul. ROK Marines advanced north of Inchon to protect the UN left flank; elements of the US 7th Division are moving southeast of Inchon to protect the right flank. Air observer reports of enemy troop movements toward Seoul from the south indicate the possibility of increased enemy resistance in the area. In southeastern Korea, the enemy held firm northwest of Taegu across the main lines of march from Taegu toward Taejon. Resistance slackened in the sectors east and south of Taegu, however, and UN forces are advancing in these areas.

Ground

Inchon Front: Numerous enemy counter-attacks against the US Marines on Kimpo airfield have been repulsed, and the Marines have pushed on to the west bank of the Han River northeast of Kimpo airfield. ROK Marines have pushed approximately five miles north of Inchon against light enemy resistance to secure the UN left flank. Elements of the US 7th Division, supported by tanks, are moving southeast from Inchon to secure the right flank and to cut the roads leading south from Seoul to Suwon and Taejon. Enemy reinforcements moving toward Seoul from Suwon and Taejon are under heavy attack by UN air forces.

Southeastern Front: In the southern sector west of Masan, the US 25th Division is meeting stiff resistance from the enemy 6th Division but a US advance is underway on both flanks. Further to the north, elements of the US 2nd Division cleared out a stubborn enemy strong point east of the Naktong River, while other elements of the Division expanded the bridgehead on the west bank of the Naktong to a depth of over a mile. Air observer reports indicate a movement of enemy troops to the rear in this sector. Enemy resistance continues firm northwest of Taegu, but elements of the US

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24th Division, moving in to support the US 1st Cavalry Division, have secured a bridgehead across the Nakdong River due west of Taegu. ROK units are pushing forward all along the north sector of the perimeter against enemy resistance which varies from light to moderate. ROK troops have entered the hotly contested walled city on Kasan mountain 12 miles north of Taegu, and have advanced across a swollen river south of Pohang to within 500 yards of the rubble port city.

Navy

UN naval forces, supporting the Inchon beachhead, have landed over 28,000 men, 14,883 vehicles, and 14,173 tons of supplies. Carrier-based planes are providing close ground support and interdicting the movement of enemy reinforcements toward Seoul from the north and south.

Air

Improved weather permitted UN air forces to fly 561 effective sorties. Forty B-29's saturated a two square mile area of enemy-held territory west of the Nakdong River in support of UN ground forces below Waegwan.

II. General Situation

Radio Pyongyang broadcast on 15 September that the Praesidium of the Supreme People's Assembly had announced the release of "Comrade" Ho Song Tack from his post as North Korean Minister of Labor. No reason for the discharge was specified. This is the first known dismissal of a high-ranking North Korean official since the outbreak of hostilities.

The press carried reports of a brief ceremony in Inchon when Pyo Hak Mun (jailed for 70 days during the Communist administration) was reinstalled as mayor of the city by the South Koreans.

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